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Rep. Mark Kirk, an Illinois Republican, was on C-Span this morning discussing the economic stimulus plan when the host asked him whether the Gov. Rod Blagojevich story had "become a joke in his mind."

"It has" said Kirk who then related an encounter he had in Afghanistan where he recently was deployed as a military reservist, the first member of the House to be militarily deployed in an "imminent danger area since 1942" he said.

Kirk said he had a meeting with the Afghan government official who, after he learned he was a reservist, asked him what he did in civilian life. Kirk continued:

"I said 'I'm a congressman.'

"He said 'What state do you represent?'

"I said 'The state of Illinois.'

"And this Afghan minister started laughing. And he said 'You know, Afghanistan is a corrupt country but not that corrupt.' "